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LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SYRIA
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the latest Israeli aggression, savagely committed against civilian populated targets in my country in utter violation of every norm of international law and justice and in complete disregard of the most elementary human rights.

On the early morning of 24 February 1969, a number of Israeli bombers, escorted by Israeli fighters, launched air attacks on deliberately selected civilian targets situated in the suburb and district of the capital, Damascus. Rockets and bombs hit Al-Hameh, Zebdani and Maysaloun. In Al-Hameh a number of houses and a washing-machines' factory were destroyed, in Zebdani a youth summer camp devastated, and in Maysaloun a custom-police station demolished. Eight private cars on the Beirut-Damascus road were not spared, among which was that of His Excellency, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Hungary in Syria. To add cruelty to their attack and increase the number of casualties, the Israeli aircrafts dropped time-bombs which actually exploded at subsequent intervals. The ensuing massacre engulfed with its cruelty exclusively civilian victims. So far fifteen persons are dead including a number of women, children and a nurse of Lebanese nationality. The wounded too, included women and children and attained so far, the number of forty.

In self-defense the Syrian Arab air force intercepted the invading aircrafts and downed three of them. Two Syrian aircrafts were lost in the operation.

This wanton aggression has closely followed a series of statements made by Israeli leaders, from Prime Minister downwards, making crystal clear their expansionist policy aiming at the annexation of Arab lands, especially The Golan Heights, to the land they already usurped.

"As for The Golan Heights, we will quite simply never give them up. The same goes for Jerusalem." This what Eshkol had to say recently to a Newsweek editor.

Neither violation of international law, international justice and the United Nations resolutions, nor inconsistency with their own previous claims of non-expansionism constitute the slightest deterrent to the formulation of their policy of conquest by force and terror. Their latest series of aggressions, culminating in the air raid of the 24th of this month, unravels what is their understanding of international law, of human rights and illustrate what kind of barbarism the Arabs are facing.

It remains to the United Nations Organization and to the Security Council in particular to assume their responsibilities and to put an end to the Israeli arrogant defiance of international law and threat to international peace and security.

I would be grateful to Your Excellency if this letter is issued as an official document of the Security Council and distributed amongst its distinguished members.

(Signed) George J. TOMEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
